Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 9, 2001 TO MARCH 16, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
New Motor Vehicle Sales	January			
Alberta	15,228	2.1%	14.1%	Between December and January, Canadian new motor vehicle sales declined 0.4%, after increases in two previous months. Sales declined in both trucks and passenger cars. Alberta bucked the national trend with a 2.1% increase in sales. Sales also increased in Quebec (1.4%), and Manitoba (1.4%). While Canadian sales began slowing in the fall of 2000, Alberta is the only province showing an upward trend in sales since the beginning of 1999. The largest declines were recorded in British Columbia (-8.3%%), and Newfoundland (-6.2%).
Canada	130,484	-0.4%	3.0%	
New Housing Price Index	January			
Canada	104.6	0.2%	2.5%	New housing prices in Canada rose a strong 2.5% on a year-over-year basis, and 0.2% from the previous month. Ottawa-Hull (14.4%) recorded highest increase from January 1999, followed by Montreal (4.7%), Kitchener-Waterloo (4.6%), Halifax (3.8%). By comparison, Calgary and Edmonton recorded more modest increases at 1.7% and 0.9% respectively. Declines were recorded in Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-1.6%), Victoria (-1.0%), Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton (-1.0%), and Vancouver (-0.7%).
Edmonton	112.3	0.1%	0.9%	
Calgary	133.4	0.2%	1.7%	
(1992=100)				
Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates	4Q, 2000			
	85.4%	-0.2% [a]	2.0% [b]	In 4Q, 2000, the utilization of Canada's industrial capacity eased for a second consecutive quarter, but still remained relatively high. The decline in the utilization rate was due to decreased output and increased capacity. The industrial capacity is expected to increase further in 2001, though at slower pace.

[a] From 3rd quarter 2000
[b] From 4th quarter 1999